

RECOGNITION OF MS. SMITA N. SHAH, P.E.

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Smita N. Shah, P.E., a prominent Indian-American businesswoman, activist, and philanthropist, who was one of a select few to receive the prestigious 2007 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Over the years, I have had the honor to befriend this young woman and seen firsthand her good works and intelligence that makes her so worthy of this award.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor award is presented to influential leaders of various fields and ethnic backgrounds who have greatly contributed to American society. Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, NECO, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to the heritage of those individuals that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic and extraordinary individual achievement. Past medalists include six U.S. Presidents as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.

As the daughter of two immigrants from India, Ms. Shah grew up in Chicago where she excelled as a student and is still remembered fondly as an active member of her community. Through her constant study and hard work she earned an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. Ms. Shah continued her education when she received a masters of science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and completed an advanced management program at Oxford. Upon completion of school, she started her own engineering firm. Though the firm started off with just 3 employees, it has since expanded to 55 in just 9 years.

Ms. Shah has also set herself apart through her commitment to public service, which started with an internship in the Office of the Chief of Staff to the President of the United States in the summer of 1994 and continued with her service as a member of the White House advance team from 1993 to 2001. She went on

to become a member of the White House Millennium Council to Save America's Treasures from 1998 to 2001. In 1996, she was the youngest delegate to the Democratic National Committee, DNC, from the State of Illinois and participated in the 2004 DNC as well.

In Chicago, because of her strong belief in community building, Ms. Shah goes out of her way to work with organizations that help to promote ethnic diversity. She serves as chair of the Delhi-Chicago Committee, a part of the city of Chicago's Sister Cities International Program, where she works to expand relations between Chicago and New Delhi, helping to preserve and encourage her own cultural ties to India. In 2004, Senator BARBARA BOXER presented Ms. Shah with a Women Making History Award for her dedication to her community, to her culture, and to the preservation of American ideals.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Shah is an asset to the United States and her efforts are deserving of this prestigious award. Ms. Shah fully embodies the commitment and values that the Ellis Island Medal of Honor represents. It is an honor for me to recognize this great American and a good friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, on Friday, September 7, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 861: "yes" on agreeing to the resolution.

(2) Rollcall No. 864: "yes" on agreeing to the conference report.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REPORTING

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on September 10, 2007, I was granted a leave of absence to attend to personal business. In error, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reported that I was granted a leave of absence from September 10, 2007 through September 21, 2007. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD should have reported September 10, 2007 as my only day of leave.

CONGRATULATING MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. TANCREDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Mr. William Johnson of Littleton, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Johnson to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Johnson and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.